

Telegram No.

Dated: April 20, 1945.

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AMPOLAD

CASERTA

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
 SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
 NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
 DATE 2001 2008

SNAFU. Repeated to Paris and Washington.

Report B-2551. From 110.

Obersturmbandfuehrer Dr Wilhelm HOETTL and von WINKLER (letter represented to us as member of Austrian right wing resistance) have supplied following info thru cutouts. Full report being mailed via Paris. See previous ALPBERG reports Snafu 677 Watch 861 Lumy 976.

Hoettl's record as SD man and collaborator HALTEMBRUNNER is of course bad and info supplied by him to be viewed with caution but I believe he desires save his skin and therefore may be useful. Von Winkler makes good impression but his statements to be accepted with reserve pending further check.

(1) Winkler resistance group includes:

Dr Theodor VETTER, Christian Socialist

Dr Roman HAEDEMAYER, Socialist, reformed Nazi, five years in concentration camp

Prof SCHREYVOSEK, Left wing Christian Socialist

Dr Rafael SPANN, Nazi prior 1934, subsequently arrested for anti-Nazi activities

Dr Walter HEINRICH, National Democrat, Nazi prior 1934, subsequently arrested for anti-Nazi activities

Obersturmbandfuehrer GOETTSCH, Nazi until 1938 but reportedly SD allegedly to assist Nazi movement

Gesandtschaftsrat Dr Theodor BLAHUT, Conservative, in Paris

*Folksmen of foregoing group are individually in touch with various
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Declassified and Approved for Release
 by the Central Intelligence Agency
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Bern - 51-2nd-73, 1301

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other resistance groups particularly leading men among clandestine Socialist, Social Democrat, National Democrat, Communist and military circles. Thus Winkler himself works with LOEHR, LOOS, RESSEGGER, while Goettsch and Hoettl are in touch with GLAISE-HORSTENAU, NEUBACHER and KALTENBRUNNER. Goettsch has secured safe house to shelter resistance leaders which called "RODELHUELTE" located on VOMFERBERG opposite SCHWAZ in INN valley.

Group also worked with Cardinal INNITZER who remained Vienna and Prelat RUDDLE, with economic circles including MEINDL of SIEGR Werke which transferred to underground Réduit factories. It is planned bring Meindl to Switzerland. Other important economic contacts are Werner SCHICKT of German Unilever, URBAN, SCHOELLER.

(2) Hoettl claims his chief concern now is to undermine Réduit by:

- a) Coordinating resistance groups Austria
- b) Contacting Western Allies thru Switzerland
- c) Placing trusted agents in each Gau
- d) Securing military info from Glaise-Horstenau
- e) Establishing radio contact between Réduit and Switzerland (From 110. Arrangements already completed for this).
- f) Sending liaison men to Gen. LOEHR with radio
- g) Sending liaison men to Adriatic zone
- h) Organizing propaganda to undermine Réduit
- i) Winning over staff of Army Group WEICHE.

(3) Nazi Party is taking over power even from SS. This facilitated by fact that SS sent fighting front. GAULEITERS under recent law become "REICHSVERTEIDIGUNGSKOMMISSAERE" and hence take over from WEHRMACHTS commanders.

BONNANN becoming ever more powerful than Himmler. Gauleiters arranging for Party members to take over arms from Wehrmacht, Waffen SS and police troops for use in Réduit. Winkler remarked that his papers bearing signature of high SS official were treated with contempt by Gauleiters' men. Hence Réduit will be controlled by Party not by SS. This likely to lead to conflict between Wehrmacht and SS on one hand and Gauleiters and Party on other but fact that Gauleiters are also Reichsverteidigungskommissaere means that average SS accept their orders.

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(4) WEREWOLF organization for redout based upon SS Jagddivision Brandenburg and other SS Jagdverbaende. Chief of organization PRUTZMANN, military chief SCORCENI who rescued Russo, aided by Major BENES. Scorceni has some 100,000 SS and reliable Wehrmacht men under his command and Hitler has ordered Scorceni take them into Réduit.

Political organization of Werewolf includes NEUBACHER now at KITZBUEHL, VESSENMEYER and ALTEKURG, all of FO, plus various exile Quislings DECRELLE, DE BRIKON, MUSSERT, VLAASSOW.

(5) Social Democrats constitute best organized resistance movement Austria and out of this grew "O5" program but did not have time to get really organized and riâlled with Gestapo agents.

Catholic opposition group second most important which is growing as result of marked revival of religious feeling.

Communists were unimportant but gaining greatly in prestige as result of Russians arriving first. Austrian masses entirely apathetic want only peace and food and will support any regime assuring these.

(6) Réduit is to be taken seriously but will contain so many unreliable elements that will not hold out for long and original Nazi plan entirely upset by rapid military developments. According original plan only reliable SS, police troops and Party leaders were to go to réduit. This plan abandoned and strong military réduit now planned including Wehrmacht units, particularly troops North Italy although doubtful if they can ever get there. Gen Loehr's men Croatia are more likely to get there plus certain Balkan groups with strong anti-Bolshevist tendencies (Mihailowitch et al) but haste such that large number of unreliable elements will get in. In general military preparations within Réduit feverishly but ineffectively prepared with food supplies not well organized. Once Réduit established valley accesses to outside world will be blown up.

High Wehrmacht officers originally destined for Réduit include; KEITEL, SCHOENER, KESSELRING, MODEL, LOEHR, RENDULIC (Loehr and Rendulic are potential oppositional elements).

Réduit Gauleiters are: AIGRUBER (Upper Austria), HORN (TIROL), UIBERREITER (Styria), GIESSLER (Bavaria), SCHAER (Salzburg), RAENER (Carinthia). First four radical Nazi fanatics, last two more reasonable.

King Leopold near Salzburg and Petain on his way there.

(7) Winkler reports that Army Group under Loehr viz 12 to 15 divs and situated in triangle Afrem-Esseck-Sarajevo are looking for directives from Allies as to best way to bring war to speedy conclusion. Panzer divs this Army not serious view lack of fuel. Cossack divs under Gen PANWITZ are hodge-podge of refugee Russians and recruited war prisoners. Average strength of divs not above 7-8,000. German speaking divs 70 percent Austrian. Loehr realizes subversive movement in his army group but is ignoring it and believed to be open to persuasion. Main preoccupation of Army is not to fall into hands of Tito and would prefer to fall into Anglo-Saxon hands but may have no alternative to giving up to Russians.

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